

CROSSVILLE CHRONICLE.

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LETTERS FROM COMRADES.

Telling of Wounding of Sergeant Carson Guthrie, in France.

Following are two letters received by Assistant Cashier W. L. Guthrie touching the death of his brother, Sergeant Carson Guthrie, killed in action in France September 27, at the beginning of the great drive that broke the famous Hindenburg line. While the young man himself was not known to many in this county, having made his home in Livingston, W. L. Guthrie is so well known and enjoys the friendship of so many over the county that the letters will be eagerly read. Furthermore, the letters are so well written as to prove of more than passing interest:

With the A. E. F., December 2, 1918.
Mr. W. L. Guthrie,
Crossville, Tennessee.

Dear Will: I certainly was very much surprised when I received your letter yesterday and learned of Carson's death. We had not been notified of his death, altho I had written repeatedly to the different divisions that we supported during the battles around Montfaucon and in the Argonne forest. I had received only one reply that he had been sent back to the Third evacuation hospital with a slight scalp wound and this is all we have ever been able to find out.

Captain Donelson, our Captain, has also written quite a number of letters in effort to find out something about him. I will use every effort to try to learn what hospital he was in when he died.

I was not with him when he was wounded. It was on the morning of September 27th, about four o'clock. We had been in position about a mile south east of Avoncourt, south of the Argonne forest and about five miles south of Montfaucon. Of course you read of the hard fighting we did here. We had fired several hours in this position and received orders to move up to another position and as all of our battery doesn't move with the guns, they were left back near this position, and as Carson was First Sergeant of the Battery proper, it was his duty to stay back with the Battery and look after the details for the supplies, rations and ammunition.

I was First Sergeant of the Firing Battery and was with them. We had started to move up and when we had gone about a mile I heard the Germans begin shelling the woods where the camp was. I had to send a Corporal back to camp with a message and when he returned to the Battery he told us Isham and Alonzo Smith had been killed and Sergt. Guthrie wounded, but said that he did not think it was serious as he had walked around and had moved the men all to a safer position. Not until he had seen every man in a zone of comparative safety would he even stop for his head to be bandaged.

Then Sergeant Kleeman, who was with him, did what he could to get an ambulance, but could find none and he stopped an officer's car and they took him back to the dressing station. From there he was sent back to the Field Hospital and that was the last trace we had of his whereabouts, but he would not let the car leave until he had given instructions about the care of the men.

Carson was a soldier who always looked after the carrying out of orders and the welfare of men, regardless of personal danger or comfort. He was a soldier for any family to be proud of, he was brave, courageous and was always conscientious in the performance of his duty and was never known to shirk anything, no matter how disagreeable. I don't think there has been a day since he was wounded that quite a number of the boys did not inquire of me if I had heard anything of Sergt. Guthrie, and yesterday when I told them of your letter, it seemed to cast a gloom over the entire Battery for the whole day.

Altho I know it is very sad indeed, for you all, yet there is one consolation—he gave his life that the world may be a safe place to live in.

I was slightly wounded two days later but it was only a slight one on

the hand. Carson was wounded by a German four inch high explosive shell, a fragment which struck him just above and in front of the right ear. I will be glad to give you any information I can in regard to where he was buried and anything else you would like to know.

Carson was First Sergeant of the Battery and as such he was always kind and considerate, altho always fearless in the execution of his duty. All the men in the Battery wish for me to extend to you their heartfelt sympathy in the loss of your brother and their comrade and friend, and to assure you that each one has done everything he could to avenge his death; especially the non-commissioned officers wish to express their deepest sympathy. Several have asked me for your address that they might write you a letter. We are still on the front and don't have any idea when we will get to leave for home.

Will, I wish I could find words to express my sympathy for you and your mother and sisters and brothers. Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your brother and my best friend and comrade.

Your friend,
B. E. Keeton,
1st Sergt., Battery F, 115th F. A.

With the A. E. F., Dec. 4, 1918.
Mr. W. L. Guthrie and family,
Crossville, Tennessee.

Dear Sir and Madam: Sergt B. E. Keeton is in receipt of a letter from you telling us of the sad death of your dear brother and son. I want to extend to you and Mrs. Guthrie, as a sincere friend of "Jim", as we all called him, my heartfelt and profound sympathy. Of course, at a time like this, in your deep hour of bereavement, a lot of letters are in the way, but I feel it my duty to write you all a few lines in regard to this dear boy, as I was the last man in Battery, "F" to see and talk to him.

We arrived at a place near Avoncourt, France, to camp, after an all-night hike. It was four o'clock a. m. Our guns were moving up to a forward position; about 30 minutes later all of the men had gone to bed. I, being Mess Sergeant, was looking around for a good place to put my kitchen, as breakfast had to be started soon. The first shell burst about 300 yards from us; that was nothing unusual. The second 150 yards; some of the men woke up. The third shell hit as I was coming to go to bed. I was only 30 yards from where it hit, myself, saw a cloud of smoke and thinking it gas, yelled to the men to put their gas masks on. In the next instant I saw "Jim" coming towards me, saying he was hit. I ran to him, felt his head. He said he could make it to the road, so he told me to go back to the boys who were hurt worse than he. How is that for courage? I went back and found two men severely wounded, who a few minutes later died in my arms, Isham and Alonzo K. Smith. I, with the assistance of two men, laid the boys on the side of the road and a few minutes later a car stopped by me. "Jim" was in it and called me over and asked me who they were and whether anyone else was hurt. I said "Jim, are you hurt badly?" and he said "No." I then told him to get well and write me. He said he would. If I had only dreamed of his being hurt badly I would not have left him a minute but gone to the hospital with him. Shells were hitting pretty close then, so the car moved on.

Mr. Guthrie, I know you and your folks grieve the death of this true and brave soldier, who was a model for other men to copy after. I, too, grieve his death but who could die a nobler one, than for one's country. If I had to die, I would that it would be for the land and flag I love so dear. Believe me,

Your sincere friend
Karl Kleeman.

PLEASANT HILL ACADEMY.

Since there are several cases of influenza in the school, it seemed prudent to postpone the lecture of the Friday evening course, and the social planned for Saturday night. A few pupils have gone to their homes; those who are ill at the school are all doing well.

The Sunday school met as usual, followed by preaching service, conducted by Rev. G. S. Butler.

LENGTHY SESSION OF COUNTY COURT

NEW ROAD LAW ASKED TO INCLUDE WIDE TIRE

Price of Road Day to Be \$1.50 and Age Limit Raised to 50 Years.—New Members High School Board Elected.—Usual Bills.

The county court found much more business confronting it at the January term last week than has usually been the case and as a result two days were required to handle it.

Judge S. N. Smith made his quarterly report, which shows that he has paid the interest on the \$200,000 outstanding Pike Bonds. Only \$2,000 of Railroad Bonds remain unpaid; the amount was originally \$50,000 and they were issued to assist the Tennessee Central to build through the county, in 1900. The remaining small amount will no doubt be retired this year. The Pike Bond sinking fund is shown to contain \$1042.44.

Judge Smith was directed by the court to enter into the proper contract with the State Highway commission for the "construction, re-construction and maintenance of the designated system of state or Federal roads or bridges, in whole or in part, within the limits of said county."

A motion was made to pay the County Demonstrator \$200. The vote stood 9 to 4 against it. That makes this county will lend no aid towards such food and conservation work as was done by Mrs. E. B. Cope in our county last year. Since the government pays all the salary, we may be favored with the labor of Mrs. Cope again this year in spite of the turndown by the court.

Prof. A. J. Albertson, of the High School teaching force, was elected County Superintendent of Public Instruction over Prof. J. S. Cline who has held the place for 18 years. The salary of the county superintendent was fixed at \$350, the state pays the same amount, making a total of \$700.

HIGH SCHOOL BOARD.

The court elected the following as members of the High School board: W. F. Bandy, Crossville, 1 year, G. A. Haley, Crossville, 2 years, N. D. Walker, Crab Orchard, 2 years, Fred Hamby, Erasmus, 3 years, G. W. Davenport, Grass Cove, 3 years.

The time of C. E. Brookhart, Peavine, does not expire until Jan. 1, 1920.

The old board consisted of: C. E. Snodgrass, G. A. Haley, C. E. Brookhart, J. E. Burnett, J. L. Qualls, G. W. Davenport; J. E. Burnett, being chairman.

For the first time in the history of the county, a woman was elected to the board of Poor House commissioners. The names of H. R. Webb, Mrs. Martha Rea and Mrs. Charles Comstock were presented and all were elected by acclamation. Mr. Webb has been chairman for several years.

R. A. Powell, D. W. Lundy and J. F. Brown were chosen as the finance committee for the ensuing year.

G. A. Haley, G. P. Burnett and E. S. Dunbar were elected as the revenue committee for this year.

O. B. Rector was elected County Ranger.

Chas. M. Wells was elected Coroner. H. L. Spencer was elected County Surveyor.

The court allowed General Garrison \$8 a month and he is not to be an inmate of the county poorhouse.

The following persons were released from payment of poll tax and road work for the year 1919: Will Hughes, L. W. Hyder, Zenas Turner, Daily Turner.

Esq. Thos. Kerley and Jas. Tucker were appointed to look after the county property known as the Sallie Music farm, with authority to sell or rent same, and report their action to the

next term of court.

S. C. Kerley and wife were allowed \$200 by the court as county dependents.

The following persons were elected notaries public: R. A. Powell, O. B. Rector, T. A. Day.

LIME FOR FARMERS.

Arrangements were perfected by the court for renting the lime crusher to N. D. Walker, Crab Orchard. Mr. Walker is to furnish all needed repairs and furnish lime to farmers at \$1.55 a ton on board cars. It was understood that the regular charge for the lime is to be only \$1.50 a ton after the repairs of the crusher have been paid for out of the extra five cents a ton, spoken of as royalty. Mr. Walker has moved the crusher to his power at the lime kiln and will be ready to crush lime for the farmers within a short time, it is hoped, as the necessary repairs are expected to arrive in a few days.

Esqs. J. F. Brown and C. J. Wheeler were appointed to look after the small acreage property at Crab Orchard owned by the county and rent same to best advantage. The property was originally purchased by the county because of the large amount of available limestone. Now that the lime crusher is leased, the county will not use the lime stone for the present.

ROAD SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

Geo. P. Burnett, county road supervisor, made his report to the court. The report contained a long list of expenditures totalling over \$3,500.

In his report Mr. Burnett says that all the graded roads of the county, except a short stretch from Taylors Chapel toward Clifty, have been gone over with the grader once and that the roads from Crossville to the Pentress county line and the Vandever road were gone over twice. He has found much difficulty in securing men and teams the past year and owing to the fact that those subject to road work could pay the five days against them at 75 cents a day and he had to pay \$2.00 a day for his men, the road money received did not go far. He tried to have the money paid in, worked out on the roads of the neighborhood from which it came, as far as possible.

He has drafted a law and sent same to our representative for passage that will raise the price necessary to be paid, by those subject to road work, to \$1.50 a day and the age limit to 50 years. That he thinks will help very materially. In the light of his experience last year, he hopes to do much more effective work this year.

NEW ROAD LAW.

A committee was appointed by the court to recommend a new road law. The committee consisted of, R. A. Powell, D. W. Lundy and J. A. Frev. Their recommendation consisted of the following, in brief: That the court elect at the January time a Supervisor and fix his salary; the court appoints a Supervisor for each civil district who shall have charge of working all ungraded roads in his district. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person who is elected to refuse to serve. The court to fix his compensation. The age limit of those subject to road work is to be 21 to 50 and the price at which any one can commute the amount due on road work is raised from 75 cents to \$1.50. All roads to be worked from May 1 to October 1. The wide tire idea is also embraced, in that persons running wagons with a tire not less than four inches wide, shall be subject to tax of \$10.00 and all wagons with tires four inches wide or over, \$5.00 a year. The amount may be worked out on the roads at \$5.00 a day. All persons hauling over the graded roads of the county for pay, must pay to the trustee \$15.00 a year in advance. Failure to do so shall constitute a misdemeanor. The money to be applied on the graded roads of the county.

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solved, that it is the desire of this court to endorse the work of our County Demonstration Agent during the past year, in not only regular work done by her in different parts of the county, but also, in the activity she put forth in assisting in getting up and holding the county fair, in arranging exhibits at the Chattanooga District Fair and in the various war activities, in which she assisted. There is no reflection whatever on the qualifications and efficiency of Mrs. Emilia B. Cope, our County Demonstration Agent.

The county bridge fund was transferred to the road fund.

Judge Smith was authorized to extend to Mrs. Ivy such assistance as he deemed necessary. He was also empowered to extend needed aid to Lee Stevens and family.

T. M. Rector was restored to road work and the payment of poll tax.

The small room to the right as you reach the top of the stairs and adjoining the Grand Jury room, was set aside as the office of County Judge. It was used by County Agent W. G. Asmond and Mrs. E. B. Cope, county demonstration agent, the past year.

The court directed the purchase of 18 copies of the revised edition of Shannon's Code at \$20 each; one for each justice of the county and one for each of the five county officers. Judge Smith was directed to place the order, but learning later that another code had been adopted by the legislature, he rescinded the order and it will rest with the court at its next session whether or not they will be purchased.

Superintendent J. S. Cline made his annual report, which was spread of record. The report shows the total scholastic population to be 3,584.

BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR SCHOOL

Fine Prospect for the Methodist School Being Established in this County.

Rev. Robt. Hall returned last week from Lebanon, where he had been attending the conference looking to the establishment of the school mentioned in these columns a few weeks ago.

Rev. Hall informs us that the matter has now progressed so far that it is practically assured that the school will be located somewhere in this mountain section.

GENEROUS OFFER.

He has had several offers of land on which to locate the institution. Center Brothers, Crab Orchard, have generously proffered to donate 200 acres and 100,000 feet of standing timber. Another party has offered to give 100 acres joining the Center tract, which would give a solid body of land consisting of 300 acres, just about the acreage the church people desire. The 100-acre tract has a flowing well on it, which adds much to its desirability. The only real objection to the tract near Crab Orchard is that it is a little farther from the railroad than is desired. It is the purpose of the M. E. Church, South, to establish an institution of learning of high order and wide scope, and for it to be located more than a mile or two from the railroad would be something of an obstacle, but not an insurmountable one.

The institution will embrace a department of mechanics and agriculture as well as the usual classical course of such institutions. Men of high ability will be employed as teachers and the work will be of such a scope that any young person who graduates from this institution will be thoroughly equipped for making a living and in the event they shall desire to enter any line of special work they will have that splendid educational foundation that will render their advancement most sure with bright prospects of ultimately reaching a high standard in the chosen calling.

COMMITTEE COMING.

Within a few weeks several leading dignitaries of the church will arrive in this county, and with Rev. Robt. Hall as one of the committee appointed by the Lebanon conference, go over the field carefully and view out the different properties with the purpose of deciding on which is the best site offered, all things considered. On the report this committee makes the church will base its action.

The value of such a school is almost beyond estimation so far as our county is concerned. Since it is a part of the school plan to hold a Chastauqua for some weeks each year as a part of the benefits that will come to the people through the school, it is very clear that the benefits as a whole that the school plans are along very broad lines and will be of great benefit as well as a most excellent recreative feature.

As the entire atmosphere of the institution will be highly Christian, the moral and spiritual influence will be very valuable. Nothing that our people could do would bring larger returns than to lend every possible encouragement to this school. The people of Crossville should be especially active in their efforts to secure its location as close to the county seat as possible.